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An Epizoaic Athecate Hydroid Attached to the Oyster Body

With 1 Text-figure

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(Communicated by T. UCHIDA)

Recently through the courtesy of Mr. Yoichi Kado of the Onomichi Marine Biological Station some hydroid specimens were forwarded to the writer for identification. They were found near that Station, attached to the inner part of an oyster, especially to both surfaces of the gills. On closer examination the hydroid was revealed to be new and even to belong to a new genus, although the available specimens are few at present. I am eager to have specimens with gonophores more developed for further study.

In describing the new hydroid I express my cordial thanks to Prof. Uchida for guidance and to Mr. Yoichi Kado for placing the specimen at my disposal.

The hydroids are found attached to the gill surface of *Ostrea gigas* Thunberg. They are rather densely aggregated but are distinctly solitary, not sending out any stolons or branches. The polyps are slender, about 1.4–2.6 mm in height and 0.4 mm in diameter, gradually tapering upwards and conspicuously narrowed near the base. The base of the hydroid is slightly spread and fastened to the substratum, forming a small round pedal disk. The hydranth is small, indistinguishable from the hydrocaulus and is provided with a conical hypostome surrounded by a verticil of 15–20 simple filiform tentacles. The polyps are entirely destitute of perisarc.

Some polyps bear in the middle of the hydrocaulus a small bud mostly directed upwards. In the present materials the buds are all small and immature. Though they are too small to know further, I may conclude with a query that they form gonophores afterwards.

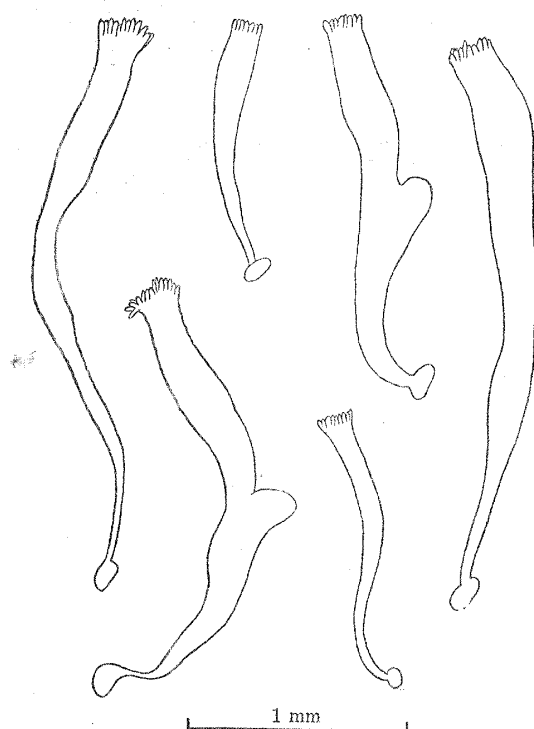


Fig. 1. *Ostreohydra japonica* n. g. et n. sp.  
Six polyps, two of which bearing a bud.

The hydroid is referable to the Hydractiniidae in the possession of a single verticil of filiform tentacles around the base of a conical hypostome. This form of the polyp suggests the close affinity of this species to the genera *Hydractinia*, *Podocoryne* or *Stylactis*, but is fairly distinguishable from these genera in its solitary life and in having no indication of a calcareous crusting. Thence, I propose the following new generic name:

*Ostreohydra* nov. gen.

Hydractiniidae not encrusting, solitary, forming a pedal disk at the base of the polyp. Type species: *Ostreohydra japonica* n. sp. found attached to the body of an oyster in Japan.

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